

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

CHARLES P. PARKHURST APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C. October 6, 1970. Charles P. Parkhurst, a specialist in the field of 16th and 17th century scientific color theories and their relationship to the visual arts, was named Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Art at a meeting of the Board of Trustees September 30, it was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery. Mr. Parkhurst's position becomes effective January 1, 1971.

Mr. Parkhurst is widely known and highly regarded both in the academic and the museum fields. "The Gallery is extremely fortunate," Mr. Brown said, "to be getting the services of a man who combines the nuts-and-bolts experience of a museum man with the scholarly and research expertise of an art history professor."

Mr. Parkhurst will administer the Gallery's curatorial department, which is responsible for acquisitions, research and exhibitions, and at present also includes educational, library and editorial functions. Also among his duties will be the supervision of the build-up of library and visual data resources for the Gallery's developing Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts.

Mr. Parkhurst, who has been director of the Baltimore Museum

(MORE)

of Art since 1962, began his museum career at the National Gallery in 1941 in the curatorial department, which he left in 1943 to enter military service in the Second World War. During the war he became Deputy Chief of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section in Germany.

After the war he resumed his museum career and began teaching at Princeton University, where he also worked in the art museum. In 1949 he was appointed head of the fine arts department at Oberlin College, where he was also professor of art and director of the art museum. He was also co-founder and president of the Intermuseum Conservation Association Board at Oberlin (1949-1962).

Decorated with the Legion of Honor of France in 1947 for his part in restoring French works to their rightful owners, he has served as president of the College Art Association (1958-1966), president of the American Association of Museums (1966-1968), and chairman of the Maryland Arts Council (1967-1968). The recipient of numerous additional honors and awards, he is known as "the father of accreditation" for establishing for American museums a system analogous to others used by various accreditation bodies.

Mr. Parkhurst is the author of numerous professional articles and museum publications. His most recent article (in press) is entitled "Survival and the Artful Life: Ecology Education in Art Museums," contributed to Museum Education Techniques in Human Ecology. He has also taught a 65-part art history course on network television.

(MORE)

Mr. Parkhurst was born in Columbus, Ohio (1913). Trained as a medievalist, he studied with three eminent scholars, Rufus Morey at Princeton, Clarence Ward at Oberlin, and Erwin Panofsky at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

While at Oberlin, Mr. Parkhurst built with his own hands a four-bedroom house designed by the Dutch modern architect, Garrett Rietveldt.

Mr. Parkhurst is married to the former Rima Zevin. Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst have seven children. They will reside in the District of Columbia.

END

For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Alison Luchs, Public Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 225.